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ABSTRACT

The "Possible Dream Scholarship Program" was developed at San Juan College (SJC) in New Mexico to encourage students to complete high school and attend college. Every 8th grader in San Juan County, regardless of their academic performance, receives a scholarship certificate of $125 to attend San Juan College and an invitation to enroll in the Possible Dream program. Two weeks later, their parents receive a letter from the college president explaining the tuition pre-payment program. Parents are asked to make $10 monthly payments to their child's scholarship account with the guarantee that when the 8th grader graduates from high school, he/she will have two full years of SJC tuition paid in full regardless of tuition increases that occur in the interim. The $125 scholarship that starts each student's account is funded by the San Juan College Foundation and U.S. West Communications, and the college board has agreed to freeze tuition at the rate in place when students joined the program. Now in its third cycle, the Possible Dream program has over 300 8th, 9th, and 10th grade participants, more than 50% of whom are minority students. Copies of the scholarship certificate, letters of invitation to join the program, and a guide distributed to participants of high school courses that help prepare for college are attached. (AJL)

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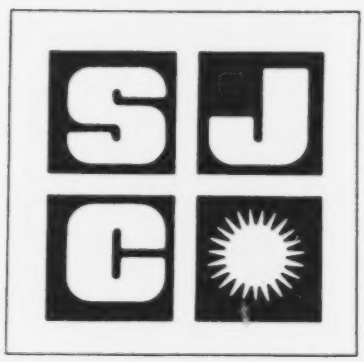
The Possible Dream



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San Juan College
4601 College Boulevard
Farmington, New Mexico 87401
(505) 326-3311

JC 890 148

The Possible Dream

April 1, 1989
American Association of Community
and Junior Colleges

Presenters

Dr. James C. Henderson, President, San Juan College
Mr. Pete Rahn, Director of Development, San Juan College
Ms. Marjorie Black, Assistant to the President, San Juan College

INTRODUCTION

San Juan College is located on the eastern edge of the largest Indian Reservation in the United States, and the Native American population will be a key factor in planning for the future. Just after the year 2000, the present minorities will become the majority of the people in the Southwest under the age of 30. They will become the majority of the total population shortly thereafter. Education of these people will be the way to continued economic growth and social stability.

San Juan College has developed programs that lead to success for minority students. Last year, the Native American students comprised 26 percent of the total student population and Hispanics comprised another 10 percent. Of the total number of students awarded certificates and degrees last year, 40 percent were minority students.

The mission of the college is directed toward student success. To accomplish this mission, the college has built in components that lead to student success. The college recognizes the diversity of students and has reflected that diversity in educational policies and practices.

Located in the Four Corners Area of Northwest New Mexico, San Juan College serves a geographical area of 5,476 square miles. The closest in-state four-year institution is located in Albuquerque, 180 miles away. Farmington is the largest community and trade center within a 150 mile radius.

The population of San Juan County is approximately 90,000 with 37,000 residing in the city of Farmington.

Formerly a branch campus of New Mexico State University, San Juan College is now an independent, comprehensive community college which is governed by a locally elected Board. The college offers transfer academic courses, technical occupational programs, general education, and community service offerings. The student enrollment is 3,000 students generating 23,091 credit hours.

THE SAN JUAN COLLEGE "POSSIBLE DREAM SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM" IS NOW IN ITS THIRD CYCLE, WITH OVER THREE HUNDRED (300) STUDENT PARTICIPANTS. THE COLLEGE HAS APPROXIMATELY ONE HUNDRED STUDENTS IN EACH OF THE COUNTY'S 8TH, 9TH, AND 10TH GRADES ENROLLED IN THE PROGRAM. THE COMPOSITION OF EACH CLASS OF PARTICIPANTS IS PREDOMINENTLY MINORITY, RANGING FROM 71% TO 52%. THIS FIGURE REPRESENTS A SUBSTANTIALLY HIGHER PERCENTAGE THAN THAT OF THE COUNTY AS A WHOLE (38%).

THE PROGRAM WAS MODELED AFTER THE PLAN ESTABLISHED BY NEW YORK PHILANTHROPIST, EUGENE LANG, TO ENCOURAGE HARLEM (NY) 6TH GRADERS TO FINISH HIGH SCHOOL AND ATTEND COLLEGE. MR. LANG'S PROGRAM (I HAVE A DREAM FOUNDATION) EXPERIENCED TREMENDOUS SUCCESS BECAUSE THE STUDENTS KNEW THEY WERE GOING TO COLLEGE. THEY HAD A DREAM!

SAN JUAN COLLEGE DID NOT HAVE THE RESOURCES TO GUARANTEE THE TUITION OF EVERY STUDENT (AS IN HARLEM), THEREFORE, THE PROGRAM WAS BUILT AROUND A TUITION PRE-PAYMENT SCHEDULE. IT WAS DETERMINED THAT A PAYMENT OF $10 PER MONTH WAS A REASONABLE AMOUNT FOR OUR AREA AND ECONOMY.

THE ONLY PROBLEM WITH THIS AMOUNT WAS THAT IT WOULD NOT PRODUCE ENOUGH PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST TO PAY FOR FOUR (4) SEMESTERS OF TUITION AT CURRENT LEVELS, LET ALONE POSSIBLE FUTURE INCREASES. (TUITION AT SAN JUAN COLLEGE IS $180 FOR 12 TO 18 HOURS.) THE SAN JUAN COLLEGE FOUNDATION WAS APPROACHED TO FUND THE $125 DEFICIT PER STUDENT. THE FOUNDATION AGREED AND SINCE THAT TIME, U.S. WEST COMMUNICATIONS (FORMERLY MOUNTAIN BELL) HAS ADOPTED THE STUDENTS IN THE PROGRAM AND IS PROVIDING AN ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION TO FUND THE "SCHOLARSHIP" PORTION OF THE PLAN. ADDITIONALLY, THE SAN JUAN COLLEGE BOARD AGREED TO FREEZE TUITION RATES FOR ENROLLEES IN POSSIBLE DREAM AT THE RATE IN PLACE WHEN THEY JOIN THE PLAN. THIS STEP WAS CRUCIAL TO INSURING THAT THE ACTUAL FUNDS AVAILABLE WOULD MEET TUITION EXPENSES ONCE THE STUDENT WAS ENROLLED AT THE COLLEGE.

EVERY EIGHTH GRADER IN SAN JUAN COUNTY RECEIVES A SCHOLARSHIP CERTIFICATE AND INVITATION TO ENROLL IN THE PROGRAM, REGARDLESS OF CURRENT ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE. TWO WEEKS LATER, THEIR PARENTS RECEIVE A LETTER FROM THE COLLEGE PRESIDENT EXPLAINING THE PLAN, PLUS A MATRIX LISTING THE COLLEGE MAJORS AT THE FIVE MOST POPULAR FOUR-YEAR COLLEGES, TO WHICH SAN JUAN COLLEGE STUDENTS TRANSFER AND THE HIGH SCHOOL COURSES RECOMMENDED FOR PREPARATION FOR THAT MAJOR.

THE FOUNDATION HAS COMMITTED THOSE FUNDS, FREED BY U.S. WEST, TO HIRE AN INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR TO PROVIDE COUNSELING SERVICES AND SOME MENTORING TO THE STUDENTS. THE COUNSELOR IS MEETING WITH EACH STUDENT IN THEIR HOME TO REVIEW EDUCATIONAL GOALS AND IMMEDIATE NEEDS. ALSO, THE STUDENTS WILL BE BROUGHT ON CAMPUS DURING THE SUMMER TO ATTEND A TWO-DAY EDUCATIONAL CAMP. THE CAMP WILL HELP THE STUDENTS WITH THEIR STUDY HABITS AND ATTEMPT TO BETTER PREPARE THEM FOR COLLEGE.

THE COLLEGE INTENDS TO FURTHER DEVELOP POSSIBLE DREAM AS THE NEED OR OPPORTUNITY ARISES.

SJC

POSSIBLE DREAM SCHOLARSHIP

SJCF

Shawna Allison

One Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars $^{00}/_{100}$ $125.00

TO THE ORDER OF: Shawna Allison
2637 E. 23rd St.
Farmington, NM 87401

GOOD ONLY TOWARD POSSIBLE DREAM SCHOLARSHIP PLAN
(See Reverse for Details)

Offer Expires: Dec. 31, 1988 (f)

November 4, 1988

Dear Shawna,

Few decisions you make will affect your entire life as much as the choice you make about your education. The stylish clothes, radical stereos and awesome cars you will have are very dependent on whether you've gone to college.

Maybe you haven't thought about college - especially since you haven't even started high school yet. Maybe no one in your family has ever gone to college, or maybe you think college is just too expensive. Well, I can tell you - college is possible and right now is the time to start preparing yourself and San Juan College will help.

Through the San Juan College Foundation's "Possible Dream Scholarship" program you can guarantee your first two years of college tuition! We will even start you off with a $125 Scholarship from U.S. West Communications. All we need is a promise from you (or your parents, grandparents, or even a favorite uncle) to place $10 per month into your own personal account with the Foundation. By the time you graduate from high school you will have **two full years (four semesters)** of San Juan College tuition paid in full. We guarantee the current tuition rate regardless of how much higher it might be when you attend.

By participating in the "Possible Dream Scholarship" program we can also help you in choosing your high school classes to better prepare you for college.

(Over)

You Can Go To College!

Please make college possible! Enroll me in the ***"Possible Dream Scholarship"*** plan at San Juan College, Farmington, New Mexico.

I understand that by enrolling in this plan and by making timely installment payments I will be guaranteed a paid-in-full tuition for a total of four semesters to be taken during any of the school years 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95.

I further understand that if I withdraw from the plan, I may receive a refund (less a $25 cancellation fee) of any money paid into my account, but I will forfeit my ***"Possible Dream Scholarship"*** from the San Juan College Foundation and any interest that may have accrued.

Phone _____

Signed _____

Date _____

If you want to make the most of your future, reserve a place in one of the nation's best community colleges, read and sign the above scholarship certificate and return to the San Juan College Foundation. We will enroll you in the program and send you a coupon booklet for your monthly payments.

Sincerely,

Pete K. Rahn
Director of Development
326-3311 ex 204

PKR:paw

P.S. This is an important decision - I urge you to discuss it with your parents.

San Juan College

4601 College Boulevard ● Farmington, New Mexico 87401 ● 505-326-3311

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

November 18, 1988

Dear Parent:

As a parent, you are the single most powerful influence regarding your child's education and ultimate career choice. Research consistently shows students rank their parents ahead of teachers and counselors as the most important resource in helping them make decisions. Even if you are grappling with your own career development, your child is looking to you for help.

One thing you need is information. The information in this letter and accompaning brochure can help you fulfill your vital role.

It is important to understand the financial benefits of education. Your child can expect to earn $329,000 more during his/her lifetime with a college degree than with only a high school diplona, and $589,000 more than can be earned by those without a high school diploma. A college degree can be the golden key to a better life only dreamed about by most of the world.

Perhaps you would like for your son or daughter to have the advantage of a college degree, but you are afraid of the increasing cost of higher education.

San Juan College wants to help you and your child accomplish this dream. We have created a unique program not available anywhere else—we call it the "Possible Dream Scholarship" plan. Your child should have received a scholarship certificate and information explaining the program about, three weeks ago.

Through this program you can guarantee the first two years of college tuition for your son or daughter. The program starts with a $125 scholarship from the San Juan College Foundation placed in a Foundation account for your child. All it requires after that is a $10 per month payment into your child's account. By the time your eighth grader graduates from high school, he/she will have two full years (four semesters) of San Juan College tuition paid in full. We even guarantee the current tuition rate regardless of how much higher it may be at the time of enrollment.

If your son or daughter withdraws from the program before completion, he/she will receive a refund (less a $25 cancellation fee) of any monies paid into his/her account, but would forfeit the "Possible Dream Scholarship".

I have also enclosed a brochure to help you guide your child in selecting the correct high school classes to prepare for a particular field of study.

We believe your child's future is very important! We hope the "Possible Dream Scholarship" program will help you in funding your child's education and in establishing an achievable goal for your child.

I would like to personally urge you to take advantage of this offer since it is only going to be available a short time.

Sincerely,

James C. Henderson, Ed. D.
President, San Juan College

Enclosure

San Juan College Foundation, Inc.

4601 COLLEGE BOULEVARD • FARMINGTON, NEW MEXICO 87401 • 505-326-3311
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Bonnie Frazer
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Richard Ledbetter
Frank Reed
Jim Rhodes
Jan Tucker
Craig Walling
Kent Watson

March 7, 1989

Dear

The San Juan College Foundation "POSSIBLE DREAM" program has added a new dimension and service to assist you in successfully completing your college education. Growth of the program, now in its third year and with over three hundred participants, necessitated finding a person to be the "POSSIBLE DREAM" coordinator and counselor; a person who would be available to counsel, advise, and assist you.

It was my good fortune to be chosen as your "POSSIBLE DREAM" coordinator and counselor. My name is Gilbert R. Blackburn, and I am excited about the "Possible Dream" program!

One of my goals is to meet each participant individually, meet your parents, and discuss your school program with you and your parents. So that I may have some basic information about you and your family before meeting you personally, would you please fill out the attached questionnaire and return it to me in the enclosed addressed and stamped envelope. Thanks.

The sole purpose of the "POSSIBLE DREAM" coordinator and counselor is to assist and serve YOU. You can help me to do this by letting me help you with your problems, doubts, and concerns about school, the "POSSIBLE DREAM" program, and further college education. Please keep my card and call any of the three numbers to reach me; if I am not there, please leave your name, school, phone number or address, and I will get back to you as soon as possible. I am available.

Sincerely,

Gilbert R. Blackburn
Coordinator and Counselor
"POSSIBLE DREAM" Program

(Counselor's Letter: This letter is sent to 9th and 10th grade students enrolled in the program.)

* * * *

San Juan College
POSSIBLE DREAM SCHOLARSHIP
4601 College Blvd Farmington, NM 87401

Date _____
Check Number _____
Payment Number: 53

May 1991

* * * *

* * * *

San Juan College
POSSIBLE DREAM SCHOLARSHIP
4601 College Blvd Farmington, NM 87401

From: Stopani Benjamin
Acct. # 86-05-0007
Paymt.# 53

May 1, 1991 $10.00

(Please return this portion with payment).

* * * *

* * * *

San Juan College
POSSIBLE DREAM SCHOLARSHIP
4601 College Blvd Farmington, NM 87401

Date _____
Check Number _____
Payment Number: 54

Jun 1991

* * * *

* * * *

San Juan College
POSSIBLE DREAM SCHOLARSHIP
4601 College Blvd Farmington, NM 87401

From: Stopani Benjamin
Acct. # 86-05-0007
Paymt.# 54

Jun 1, 1991 $10.00

(Please return this portion with payment).

* * * *

Dear Students and Parents:

All students who plan to attend college deserve a fair chance to succeed in higher education. To do so, they must be adequately prepared in high school to go on to college-level study.

Because we at San Juan College are interested in educational opportunities for all San Juan County high school students, we want to give you some information on the preparations you can make while you are in high school to help you achieve success in college.

It is as true now as it has ever been — communications and mathematics still provide the sound foundation for success in college and in the world of work.

We urge you to take several basic courses while in high school regardless of the major you may choose to pursue in college.

English	Four years with as much emphasis on composition as possible.
Humanities & Social Sciences	Students are strongly urged to take a selection of courses in both areas.
Mathematics	Algebra, geometry and trigonometry are recommended.
Science	Biology, chemistry and physics are recommended.
Foreign Language	Completion of high school foreign language course recommended.

How to Use this Guide

We have listed nearly all of the college majors offered at the University of New Mexico, New Mexico State University, Eastern New Mexico University and Ft. Lewis College. The first two years of study for most of these degrees are offered at San Juan College.

The areas of high school study have been listed and ranked "strongly recommended" or "helpful but not essential." By comparing your areas of interest with high school options, you can identify the kinds of courses you should be taking to prepare for your college career.

We at San Juan College want you to succeed in college and we will assist you in your efforts. We hope this brochure is useful to you in looking to the future and in planning your high school program.

If you have any questions, please contact San Juan College at 326-3311.

Sincerely,

James C. Henderson, Ed.D.
President

JCH/mw

CHOICES THAT COUNT

San Juan College

COLLEGE DEGREES

Education:	Agricultural Education	R	R	R				R	R	R			R	R	R	R
	Art Education	R	R	R		H		R	R	H			R	R	R	R
	Business Education	R	R	R	H	R	H	R	R	H			R	R	R	R
	Music Education	R	R	R				R	R	H			R	R	R	R
	Elementary Education	R	R	R	R		H	R	R	H			R	R	R	R
	Secondary Education	R	R	R	R			R	R	H		R	R	R	R	R
	Physical Education	R		R				R	R	H			R	R	R	R
	Vocational Education	R	R	R	H	R	H	R	R	H			R	R	R	R
	Communicative Disorders	R	R	R	R		H	R	R	H		R	R	R	R	R
Engineering:	All Degrees	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	H	H	R	R	H	H
Home Economics:	Home Economics	R	R	R			R	R	R	H			R	R	R	H
	Food/Nutritionist	R	R	R			R	R	R	H			R	R	R	
Humanities:	English	R	R	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	R	R	R	H	R
	History	R	R	H	R	H	R	R	R	H	H	R	R	R	R	R
	Journalism	R	R	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	R	R	R	H	R
	Languages	R	R	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	R	R	R	H	H
	Philosophy	R	R	H	R	H	R	R	R	H	H	R	R	R	R	R
	Speech Communication	R	R	R	H	H	H	R	H	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
	Religion	R	R	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	R	R	R	R	R
Science:	Biology	R	R	R	H	H	R	R	R	H	H	H	R	H	H	
	Chemistry	R	R	R	R	R		R	R	R	H	H	R	H	H	
	City Planning	R	R	R	R	H	R	H	H	H	H	H	R	R	R	H
	Computer Science	R	R	R	H	H	R	R	H	R	H	H	R	H	H	
	Geography	R	R	R	H	H	R	H	H	H	H	H	R	R	R	H
	Geology	R	R	R	H	R	R	R	R	R	R	H	R	R	H	H
	Mathematics	R	R	R	R	R	H	R	R	R	H	H	R	R	H	H
	Physical Science	R	R	R	R	R		R	R	R	R	H	R	R	H	H
	Physics	R	R	R	R	R			R	R	H	H	R	H	H	H
	Statistics	R	R	R	R	R	H	R	R	R	H	H	R	R	H	H
Health Science:	Community Health	R	H	R	H		H	H	R	H			R	R		
	Medical Technology	R	R	R			H	H	R	H			R	H		
	Nursing	R	H	R			R	R	R	R	H	H	R	H	R	
	Physical Therapy	R	R	R			H	R	H	H	H		R	R	R	H
	Pharmacy	R	H	R	R		R	R	R	R	H		R	R	H	H
Social Science:	Anthropology	R	R	R	R		R	R	H	H	H	R	R	R	H	H
	Criminal Justice	R	R	R	R		R	R	R	H	H	R	R	R	H	H
	Political Science	R	H	R			R					R	R	R	H	
	Psychology	R	R	R	R		R	R	R	H	H	R	R	R	H	
	Sociology	R	R	R	R		R	H	H	H	H	R	R	R	H	H
Pre-Professional:	Pre-Law	R	H	R			R					R	R	R	R	H
	Pre-Med	R	H	R	R		R	R	R	R	H		R	H	H	

COLLEGE DEGREES

HIGH SCHOOL COURSES

R = Strongly Recommended
H = Helpful

		Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II	Trigonometry	Calc/Adv. Math	Gen. Science	Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Adv. Science	Foreign Lang.	Composition	Speech	Social Science	Fine Arts
Agriculture:	Agriculture	R	R	R		H	H	R	R	H	H	H	R	R	H	H
	Agricultural Business	R	R	R	R	H		H	H	H	H	H	R	R	H	H
	Animal Science	R	R	R	H		H	R	R	R			R	R		
	Wildlife Science	R	R	R	H		H	R	R	H			R	R		
	Soil Science	R	R	R	H	R	R	R	R	H	R		R	R	H	
Arts & Architecture:	Architecture	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	H	R	H	H	R
	Art	R	R	H	H	H	H	H	H	H		R	R	H	H	R
	Music	R	R	H	H	H	H	H	H	H		R	R	H	H	H
	Theatre	R	R	H	H	H	H	H	H	H		R	R	R	H	R
Business:	Accounting	R	R	R	H	H		H	H	H			R	R	R	
	Business Administration	R	R	R	H	H		H	H	H			R	R	R	
	Business Computers	R	R	R	H	H	R	H	H	H			R	R	R	
	Economics	R	R	R	H	H		H	H	H			R	R	R	
	Finance	R	R	R	H	H		H	H	H			R	R	R	
	Real Estate	R	R	R	H	H		H	H	H			R	R	R	
	Management	R	R	R	H	H		H	H	H			R	R	R	
	Marketing	R	R	R	H	H		H	H	H			R	R	R	
Education:	Agricultural Education	R	R	R				R	R	R			R	R	R	R
	Art Education	R	R	R		H		R	R	H			R	R	R	R
	Business Education	R	R	R	H	R	H	R	R	H			R	R	R	R
	Music Education	R	R	R				R	R	H			R	R	R	R
	Elementary Education	R	R	R	R		H	R	R	H			R	R	R	R
	Secondary Education	R	R	R	R			R	R	H		R	R	R	R	R
	Physical Education	R		R				R	R	H			R	R	R	R
	Vocational Education	R	R	R	H	R	H	R	R	H			R	R	R	R
	Communicative Disorders	R	R	R	R		H	R	R	H		R	R	R	R	R
Engineering:	All Degrees	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	H	H	R	R	H	H
Home Economics:	Home Economics	R	R	R			R	R	R	H			R	R	R	H
	Food/Nutritionist	R	R	R			R	R	R	H			R	R	R	
Humanities:	English	R	R	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	R	R	R	H	R
	History	R	R	H	R	H	R	R	R	H	H	R	R	R	R	R
	Journalism	R	R	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	R	R	R	H	R
	Languages	R	R	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	R	R	R	H	H
	Philosophy	R	R	H	R	H	R	R	R	H	H	R	R	R	R	R
	Speech Communication	R	R	R	H	H	H	R	H	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
	Religion	R	R	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	R	R	R	R	R

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